Dies Committee Hits Peace Now As Aid to Enemy

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By FRED MULLEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (UP). —The Dies Committee tonight charged that the Peace Now movement is un-American, that its activities are calculated to interfere with successful prosecution of the war and that in specific instances it has been guilty of seditious acts which tend toward treason.

The committee said its findings were based almost entirely on the files of the organization, turned over on subpoena Feb. 7.

It identified the organizing committee of Peace Now as George Hartmann, chairman; Dorothy Hutchinson, associate editor; Marjorie Ewbank, treasurer, and Bessie Simon.

It described propaganda distributed by the movement as of such a nature that "it will serve the interests of Goebbels' Nazi propaganda machine," and added:

"It should be noted that the Nazi drive for 'negotiated peace' coincides almost exactly with the setting up of the Peace Now movement. When the war took a definite turn in favor of the Allied nations, the Nazis finally realized the best they could hope for was a 'negotiated peace.' At about the same time, the Peace Now movement took up the same theme. Goebbels is undoubtedly using the fact of such an organization's existence to bolster German morale.

"The committee finds that in specific instances the movement has been guilty of acts whose nature is clearly seditious and tends toward encouragement of treason.

"Even though it is small and without significant influence, there is no doubt that the enemy and certain neutral countries will seize on its propaganda to try to show that American morale is disintegrating and that the Nazis and Japs still have a chance of salvaging something."

The propaganda, it said, will have the effect of undermining morale of the American home front and the armed forces on foreign fronts "who may not be correctly informed concerning the full facts of the organization."